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THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

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SUBJECT:

Views of an "Independent KMT" Legislator

Section to DC/R

Introduction

Subsequent to the announcement of the exchange of visits between President Eisenhower and Premier Khrushchev, several legislators called upon the Ambassador to express their concern over the possibility that some agreement might be reached which would jeopardize the position of the Republic of China. Noteworthy among the visitors was Professor TU Kuang-hsun (2629/0342/1053), who, in addition to being a legislator, is chairman of the department of political science at Soochow University and also a professor at Chengchih University. A member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Legislative Yuan since its inception under the new constitution in 1948, Tu provided some background comments on groups among the Kuomintang in the Legislative body, the state of education in Taiwan, and the dilemma posed by the need for higher pay for civil servants but the lack of resources to permit such a step.

Biographic Data

The China Yearbook 1958-59 provides the following background on Professor Tu:

"Mem., Legis. Yuan; Prof. and Chmn., Dept. of Pol. Science, Soochow Univ. b. Shantung, 02; m. Shu-chun Liu; three d. Educ.: Nat. Peking Univ., 18-21, Univ. of Chicago, 21-22, Columbia Univ., 22-27; BA with honor in the Dept. of Public Law and Govt., 25; MA, 26; and passed language and preliminary examinations for doctorate, 27. Prof. Nat. Sun Yat-sen Univ., 27-28; Prof. and Dean, Nat. Tsingtao Univ., 28-36; Prof. & Dean, Nat. Northwestern Univ., 39-43; Member, Control Yuan, 43-48; Mem. of Constituent Nat. Convention, 37-48; Mem., Legis. Yuan 48-; Prof. Nat. Chengchi Univ., 48-56; Adv., Chinese Del. to UN, 55. Pubs. Problems of Constitutional Government; Contemporary Problems in Constitutional Law; Contemporary International Relations and Government; Constitutional Problems in Democratic Countries."

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Professor Tu is about 5'10" tall, wears glasses, is of medium-slender build, and has an unusual pucker under the corners of his mouth.

He grew up in a village in western Shantung, about a half a mile from the Grand Canal. His six years of study in the United States was financed by a Chinese Government scholarship and his study was in the field of comparative government. Elected to the Legislative Yuan from Shantung, he was originally on three committees, then two and now he remains on the Foreign Relations Committee, since the Yuan reduced committee assignments several years ago to one for each member.

Comments on Groupings in the Legislative Yuan

Professor Tu said he is a member of the Kuomintang, but an "independent" one. (Tu himself is reportedly a member of the "Monday-Thursday Club", a liberal group.) He said the main groupings are those of the so-called "CC Clique", headed by the Yuan's President, CHANG Tao-fan, and the (San-Min-Chu-I) Youth Corps group, headed by Vice President CH'EN Ch'eng. He remarked that there are a considerable number of more independent Kuomintang Legislative Yuan members, most of whom have a background of study in Occidental countries. Tu commented that such persons have a real appreciation of the merits of western democracy.

Tu said that former Minister of Education and present Examination Yuan President CHENG Tien-fong was an influential person in the CC Clique. He remarked that at present the Youth Corps seemed to be the most influential grouping in the Legislative Yuan. Another leader of the Youth Corps clique mentioned by Tu was Minister of Communications YUAN Shou-chien.

Views of the Vice President

Tu characterized Vice President Ch'en Ch'eng as an able, energetic person of integrity. He said he had worked with the Vice President in the preparation of the present constitution.

Education in Taiwan

Professor Tu said the standards of education in Taiwan are not high in the universities, secondary and primary schools. The students do little outside reading; they simply parrot back their teacher's comments. Since professors and teachers are poorly paid they have to take on several jobs and they are not able to devote enough time to any of them. Tu gave the example of a number of professors who taught twenty or more hours a week although they

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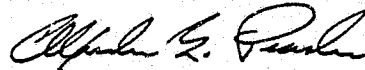
are supposed to be limited to nine. Before World War II, teachers and professors were relatively well paid.

Students in the primary and secondary schools are taught too many subjects; they are unable to concentrate on particular subjects. Professors and teachers are too old; few new personnel of caliber are attracted to a field clogged with oldsters who cannot retire, because they would receive little or nothing in retirement. Professor Tu remarked that the professors and teachers - especially the older ones - are out of touch with recent developments in their fields.

Civil Servant Pay

Professor Tu said there is a need for fewer civil servants in China and better pay for them. He also thought teaching pay should be increased, but he believed the costs of increases for teachers - and the subsequent demand that all civil servant pay be increased - would make such a step most unlikely under current conditions.

For the Ambassador:



Alexander L. Peaslee
First Secretary of Embassy

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